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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4140
INFO RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 9850
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 0573
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 0973
RHMFISS/HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
RHMFISS/HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHMFISS/CDRUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 000592

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/19/2019
TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [NATO](#) [GM](#)
SUBJECT: URGENT REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE ON U.S. AIR FORCE
COMBAT AIR FORCES RESTRUCTURING PLAN

Classified By: CHARGE D'AFFAIRES JOHN KOENIG. REASONS: 1.4 (B) AND (D).

[1](#)1. (U) This is an urgent action request. See para 3.

[1](#)2. (C) U.S. Air Force Public Affairs in Washington issued a press release on May 18, announcing plans to retire approximately 250 aircraft from the U.S. inventory, including 18 F-16s currently deployed at SpangQOQxQQ_Qx0!Q]-QHt German authorities could claim that we are not abiding by our long-standing commitment to pre-notify such force changes via the host nation notification procedures outlined in CJCS Staff Instruction 2300.02E, dated 29 February 2008.

[1](#)3. (C) We therefore request immediate guidance on how we should explain and characterize the U.S. Air Force announcement so that any potential misunderstandings concerning the planned withdrawal of the F-16 squadron at Spangdahlem can be avoided. We also seek instructions enabling us to reaffirm to the German authorities that we will follow established host nation notification procedures in this case and other possible cases in the future.
Koenig